



MEDICAL PRIORITY DISPATCH MINIMUM RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD) CATEGORIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish approved Medical Priority Dispatch System™ (MPDS) response and mode assignments for use by authorized Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Centers.

II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220

III. DEFINITIONS

Ambulance: An emergency basic life support (BLS) or advanced life support (ALS) ambulance.

Ambulance Provider: An entity properly permitted to operate an emergency ALS ambulance service in San Bernardino County.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD): The reception, evaluation, processing and provision of dispatch life support; management of requests for emergency medical assistance; and ongoing evaluation and improvement of the emergency medical dispatch process.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Centers: Any dispatching center receiving and dispatching calls for emergency medical services providing pre-arrival medical care instructions and/or tiered response resource management.

First Responder Vehicle: An emergency basic life support (BLS) or advanced life support (ALS) non-transport vehicle operated by an EMS provider.

First Responder Provider: An organization authorized by ICEMA to participate in the EMS system that is the initial contact for patients in the prehospital setting.

IV. POLICY

- EMD Centers shall dispatch EMS resources to medical emergencies and manage their response in accordance w/ the response level established by this policy.
- First responder and ambulance resources shall comply w/ instructions from an authorized EMD Center to upgrade, cancel, or reduce their response mode.

- ICEMA approved MPDS response and mode assignments for use by authorized EMD Centers are as follows:

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
Card 1	Abdominal Pain	D-1	Not alert	X	
		C-1	Suspected aortic aneurysm	X	
		C-2	Known aortic aneurysm	X	
		C-3	Fainting or near fainting	X	
		C-4	Females w/ fainting or near fainting	X	
		C-5	Males w/ pain above navel	X	
		C-6	Females w/ pain above navel	X	
		A-1	Abdominal pain		X
Card 2	Allergies/Stings/Bites	E-1	Ineffective breathing	X	
		D-1	Not alert	X	
		D-2	Difficulty speaking between breaths	X	
		D-3	Swarming attack (bees, wasps)	X	
		D-4	Snake bite	X	
		C-1	Difficulty breathing or swallowing	X	
		C-2	History of severe allergic reaction	X	
		B-1	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	No difficulty breathing or swallowing (rash, hives, or itching may be present)		X
		A-2	Spider bite		X
Card 3	Animal Bites/Attacks	D-1	Unconscious or arrests	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Chest or neck injury(w/ difficulty breathing)	X	
		D-4	Dangerous body area	X	
		D-5	Large animal	X	
		D-6	Exotic animal	X	
		D-7	Attack or multiple animals	X	
		B-1	Possibly dangerous body area	X	
		B-2	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-3	Unknown status/other code not applicable	X	
		A-1	Not dangerous body area		X
		A-2	Non-recent		X
		A-3	Superficial bites		X
Card 4	Assault/Sexual Assault	D-1	Unconscious or arrest	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Chest or neck injury (w/ difficulty breathing)	X	
		D-4	Multiple victims	X	
		B-1	Possibly dangerous body area	X	
		B-2	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-3	Unknown status/ other code not applicable	X	
		A-1	Not dangerous body area		X

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
Card 5	Back Pain (Non-trauma)	A-2	Non-recent		X
		D-1	Not alert	X	
		C-1	Suspected aortic aneurysm	X	
		C-2	Known aortic aneurysm	X	
		C-3	Fainting or near fainting	X	
		A-1	Non-traumatic back pain		X
		A-2	Non-recent		X
Card 6	Breathing Problems	E-1	Ineffective breathing	X	
		D-1	Not alert	X	
		D-2	Difficulty speaking between breaths	X	
		D-3	Changing color	X	
		D-4	Clammy	X	
		C-1	Abnormal breathing	X	
Card 7	Burns (Scald/Explosion)	D-1	Multiple victims	X	
		D-2	Unconscious or arrest	X	
		D-3	Not alert	X	
		D-4	Difficulty speaking between breaths	X	
		C-1	Building fire	X	
		C-2	Difficulty breathing	X	
		C-3	Burns > 18% body area	X	
		C-4	Significant facial burns	X	
		B-1	Blast injuries (w/o priority symptoms)	X	
		B-2	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Burns < 18%	X	
		A-2	Fire alarm (unknown situation)		
		A-3	Sunburn or minor burn		X
		D-1	Unconscious or arrest	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Difficulty speaking between breaths	X	
		D-4	Multiple victims	X	
		D-5	Unknown status	X	
		C-1	Alert w/ difficulty breathing	X	
		B-1	Alert w/o difficulty breathing	X	
	FIRE ONLY	OMEGA-1	CO detector w/o symptoms		
Card 9	Cardiac or Respiratory Arrest Death	E-1	Not breathing at all	X	
		E-2	Breathing uncertain (agonal)	X	
		E-3	Hanging	X	
		E-4	Strangulation	X	
		E-5	Suffocation	X	
		E-6	Underwater	X	
		D-1	Ineffective breathing	X	
		D-2	Obvious or expected death	X	
		B-1	Obvious death	X	

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
		OMEGA-1	Expected death (DNR, terminal)	X	
Card 10	Chest Pain (Non-traumatic)	D-1	Not alert	X	
		D-2	Difficulty speaking between breaths	X	
		D-3	Changing color	X	
		D-4	Clammy	X	
		C-1	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-2	Heart attack or angina history	X	
		C-3	Cocaine	X	
		C-4	Breathing normally ≥ 35	X	
		A-1	Breathing normally < 35	X	
Card 11	Choking	E-1	Complete obstruction	X	
		D-1	Abnormal breathing	X	
			(Partial obstruction)	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		A-1	Not choking now		X
Card 12	Convulsion/Seizures	D-1	Not breathing at all	X	
		D-2	Continuous or multiple seizures	X	
		D-3	Agonal/ineffective breathing	X	
		D-4	Effective breathing not verified ≥ 35	X	
		C-1	Focal seizures not alert	X	
		C-2	Pregnancy	X	
		C-3	Diabetic	X	
		B-1	Effective breathing not verified < 35	X	
		A-1	Not seizing now and breathing	X	
		A-2	Focal seizures alert	X	
		A-3	Impending seizure	X	
Card 13	Diabetic Problems	D-1	Unconscious	X	
		C-1	Not alert	X	
		C-2	Abnormal behavior	X	
		C-3	Abnormal breathing	X	
		A-1	Alert and behaving normally		X
Card 14	Drowning (Near)/ Diving Accident	D-1	Unconscious	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Diving or suspected neck injury	X	
		D-4	Scuba accident	X	
		C-1	Alert w/ abnormal breathing	X	
		B-1	Alert and breathing normally	X	
		B-2	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Alert and breathing normally	X	

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
Card 15	Electrocution/ Lightning	E-1	Not breathing/ineffective breathing	X	
		D-1	Unconscious	X	
		D-2	Not disconnected from power	X	
		D-3	Power not off or hazard present	X	
		D-4	Extreme fall \geq 30 feet)	X	
		D-5	Long fall	X	
		D-6	Not alert	X	
		D-7	Abnormal breathing	X	
		D-8	Unknown status	X	
		C-1	Alert and breathing normally	X	
Card 16	Eye Problems/Injuries	D-1	Not alert	X	
		B-1	Severe eye injuries	X	
		A-1	Moderate eye injuries	X	
		A-2	Minor eye injuries		X
		A-3	Medical eye problems		X
Card 17	Falls	D-1	Extreme fall \geq 30 feet)	X	
		D-2	Unconscious or arrest	X	
		D-3	Not alert	X	
		D-4	Chest or neck injury w/ difficulty breathing	X	
		D-5	Long fall	X	
		B-1	Possibly dangerous body area	X	
		B-2	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-3	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Not dangerous body area		X
		A-2	Non-recent		X
	FIRE ONLY	A-3	Public assist		
Card 18	Headache	C-1	Not alert	X	
		C-2	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-3	Speech problems	X	
		C-4	Sudden onset of severe pain	X	
		C-5	Numbness	X	
		C-6	Paralysis	X	
		C-7	Change in behavior (< 3 hours)	X	
		B-1	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Breathing normally		X
Card 19	Heart Problems/ A.I.C.D	D-1	Not alert	X	
		D-2	Difficulty speaking between breaths	X	
		D-3	Changing color	X	
		D-4	Clammy	X	
		D-5	Resuscitated and/or defibrillation	X	
		C-1	Firing of A.I.C.D.	X	
		C-2	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-3	Chest pain \geq 35 minutes	X	

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
		C-4	Cardiac history	X	
		C-5	Cocaine	X	
		C-6	Heart rate < 50 bpm or > 130 bpm (w/o symptoms)	X	
		C-7	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Heart rate > 50 bpm and < 130 bpm w/o symptoms)	X	
		A-2	Chest pain ≤ 35 w/o symptoms	X	
Card 20	Heat/Cold Exposures	D-1	Not alert	X	
		D-2	Multiple victims	X	
		C-1	Heart attack or angina history	X	
		B-1	Change in skin color	X	
		B-2	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Alert		X
Card 21	Hemorrhage/Lacerations	D-1	Unconscious or alert	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Dangerous hemorrhage	X	
		D-4	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-1	Hemorrhage through tubes	X	
		C-2	Hemorrhage of dialysis fistula	X	
		B-1	Possibly dangerous hemorrhage	X	
		B-2	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-3	Bleeding disorder	X	
		B-4	Blood thinner	X	
		A-1	Not dangerous hemorrhage		X
		A-2	Minor hemorrhage		X
Card 22	Inaccessible Incident/Other Entrapments	D-1	Mechanical/machinery entrapment	X	
		D-2	Trench collapse	X	
		D-3	Structure collapse	X	
		D-4	Confined space entrapment	X	
		D-5	Inaccessible terrain situation	X	
		D-6	Mudslide/avalanche	X	
		B-1	No longer trapped unknown injuries	X	
		B-2	Peripheral entrapment only	X	
		B-3	Unknown status	X	
	FIRE ONLY	A-1	No longer trapped no injuries		
Card 23	Overdose/Poisoning (Ingestion)	D-1	Unconscious	X	
		D-2	Changing color	X	
		C-1	Not alert	X	
		C-2	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-3	Antidepressants (tricyclic)	X	
		C-4	Cocaine, methamphetamine	X	
		C-5	Narcotics (heroin)	X	

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
		C-6	Acid or alkali (lye)	X	
		C-7	Unknown status	X	
		C-8	Poison control	X	
		B-1	Overdose w/o symptoms		X
	POISON CONTROL CONTACT	OMEGA-1	Poisoning w/o symptoms		
Card 24	Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage	D-1	Breech or cord	X	
		D-2	Head visible/out	X	
		D-3	Imminent delivery > 20 weeks)	X	
		D-4	3rd trimester hemorrhage	X	
		D-5	High risk complications	X	
		D-6	Baby born (complications w/ baby)	X	
		D-7	Baby born (complications w/ mother)	X	
		C-1	2 nd trimester hemorrhage or miscarriage	X	
		C-2	1 st trimester serious hemorrhage	X	
		C-3	Baby born no complications	X	
		B-1	Labor delivery not imminent greater 5 months/20 weeks	X	
		B-2	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	1 st trimester hemorrhage or miscarriage		X
		OMEGA-1	Waters broken (no contractions)		X
Card 25	Psychiatric/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt	D-1	Not alert	X	
		D-2	Dangerous hemorrhage	X	
		B-1	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-2	Non-serious or minor hemorrhage	X	
		B-3	Threatening suicide	X	
		B-4	Jumper (threatening)	X	
		B-5	Near hanging, strangulations Or suffocation	X	
		B-6	Unknown status	X	
	POLICE ONLY	A-1	Non-suicidal and alert		
	POLICE ONLY	A-2	Suicidal (not threatening) and alert		
Card 26	Sick Person (Specific Diagnosis)	D-1	Not alert	X	
		C-1	Altered level of consciousness	X	
		C-2	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-3	Sickle cell crisis	X	
		B-1	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	No priority symptoms		X
		A-2	Non-priority complaints		X
		OMEGA-1	This code is not in use		X

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
		OMEGA-2-28 (EXC 9)	Non-priority complaints		X
	FIRE ONLY	Omega 9	Cut off ring request		
Card 27	Stab/Gunshot/ Penetrating Trauma	D-1	Unconscious or arrest	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Central wounds	X	
		D-4	Multiple wounds	X	
		D-5	Multiple victims	X	
		B-1	Non-recent (> 6 hours)	X	
		B-2	Known single peripheral wound	X	
		B-3	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-4	Unknown status	X	
		B-5	Obvious death	X	
		A-1	Non-recent (> 6 hours) wounds (w/o priority symptoms)		X
Card 28	Stroke (CVA)	C-1	Not alert	X	
		C-2	Abnormal breathing	X	
		C-3	Speech problems	X	
		C-4	Numbness, paralysis, or movement	X	
		C-5	Vision problems	X	
		C-6	Sudden onset of severe headache	X	
		C-7	Stroke history	X	
		C-8	Breathing normally ≥ 35	X	
		B-1	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	Breathing normally < 35	X	
Card 29	Traffic/ Transportation Incidents	D-1	Major incident	X	
		D-2	High mechanism	X	
		D-3	Hazmat	X	
		D-4	Pinned (trapped) victim	X	
		D-5	Not alert	X	
		B-1	Injuries	X	
		B-2	Serious hemorrhage	X	
		B-3	Other hazards	X	
		B-4	Unknown status	X	
		A-1	1 st party caller w/ injury to not dangerous body part		X
	POLICE ONLY	OMEGA1	No injuries		
Card 30	Traumatic Injuries (Specific)	D-1	Unconscious or arrest	X	
		D-2	Not alert	X	
		D-3	Chest or neck injury(w/ difficulty breathing)	X	
		B-1	Possibly dangerous body part	X	
		B-2	Serious hemorrhage	X	

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
		A-1	Not dangerous body area		X
		A-2	Non-recent (> 6 hours)		X
Card 31	Unconscious/Fainting (Near)	E-1	Ineffective breathing	X	
		D-1	Unconscious - agonal/ ineffective breathing	X	
		D-2	Unconscious - effective breathing	X	
		D-3	Not alert	X	
		D-4	Changing color	X	
		C-1	Alert w/ abnormal breathing	X	
		C-2	Fainting episode and alert \geq 35 (w/ cardiac history)	X	
		C-3	Females 12-50 w/ abdominal pain	X	
		A-1	Fainting episode and alert \geq 35 (w/o cardiac history)	X	
		A-2	Fainting episode and alert < 35 (w/ cardiac history)	X	
		A-3	Fainting episode and alert < 35 (w/o cardiac history)		X
Card 32	Unknown Problem (Man Down)	D-1	Life status questionable	X	
		B-1	Standing, sitting, moving or talking	X	
		B-2	Medical alarm (no patient information)	X	
		B-3	Unknown status	X	
		B-4	Caller's language not understood	X	
Card 33	Transfer/Interfacility/ Palliative Care	D-1	Suspected cardiac or respiratory arrest	X	
		D-2	Just resuscitated or defibrillated	X	
		C-1	Not alert	X	
		C-2	Abnormal breathing (acute onset)	X	
		C-3	Significant hemorrhage or shock	X	
		C-4	Possible acute heart problems or MI	X	
		C-5	Acute severe pain	X	
		C-6	Emergency response requested	X	
		A-1	Acuity I (no priority symptoms)	X	
		A-2	Acuity II (no priority symptoms)	X	
		A-3	Acuity III (no priority symptoms)	X	
Card 34	Automatic Crash Notification (ACN)	D-1	High mechanism		
		D-2	Unconscious or not alert		

MPDS Card #	Card Name	Level #	Determinant Descriptors	ALS/1 st	BLS/1 st
		D-3	Not breathing/ineffective breathing		
		D-4	Life status questionable		
		B-1	Injuries involved		
		B-2	Multiple victims (one unit)		
		B-3	Multiple victims (additional units)		
		B-4	Airbag/other automatic sensor		
		B-5	Unknown situation/other codes (not applicable)		
		A-1	Not dangerous injuries (1 st party and single occupant)		
		OMEGA1	No injuries (refer to police)		

V. REFERENCE

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
6120	Emergency Medical Dispatch Center Requirements (<i>San Bernardino County Only</i>)